

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 10-14, 21 and 22 are pending in the application. Claims 7 and 8 are allowed. Claims 9-14 are objected to. Claims 1-6, 21 and 23-24 are rejected over art of record. Claims 3, 4, 9, 15-20, 23 and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4 and 10-12 have been amended.

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

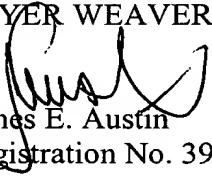
The allowance of claim 7 and 8 and the indication of allowability of claims 9-14 is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 9-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if amended to incorporate the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application and allow for the speedy issuance of a patent for subject matter in the application allowed and indicated allowable, the limitations of claim 9 and of intervening claim 3 have been added to claim 1, effectively rewriting claim 9 in independent form. Also the limitations of claim 1 and of intervening claim 3 have been added to claim 12 so that claim 12 is now presented in independent form. Previously pending claims 2, 3 and 9 have correspondingly been canceled as redundant. And the dependencies of claims 4, 10 and 11 have been adjusted accordingly. Claims to rejected subject matter have been cancelled. This cancellation is without prejudice to subsequent reintroduction of these claims or of the subject matter to which they are directed in this or a continuation and/or divisional application. The remaining claims, including currently rejected claims 4-6, 21 and 22, depend directly or indirectly from claims indicated allowable and, for at least this reason, are respectfully submitted to also be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the

Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 12-2252
(client docket 01-206).

Respectfully submitted,
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